

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00120 052238Z

10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 SAM-01 SCCT-02 /101 W

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R 051445Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

473 ?3/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON 0329

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0120

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN RULER VETOES ESTABLISHMENT PLO

OFFICE IN MANAMA

1) FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH MOHAMMAD HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY AN EARLIER REUTERS STORY QUOTING MOHAMMAD AS SAYING IN LAHORE THAT PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WOULD ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN MANAMA. HE SAID BAHRAIN HAD PERSISTENTLY BEEN IMPORTUNED BY THE P.L.O. TO PERMIT THIS, MOST RECENTLY BY YASSER ARAFAT WHO HAD VISITED MANAMA A FEW DAYS AGO. ARAFAT HAD EMPHASIZED ALGIERS CONFERENCE DECISION, REITERATED AT LAHORE CONFERENCE, THAT PLO WAS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND HAD POINTEDLY WONDERED WHY BAHRAIN WAS REFUSING WHEN OTHER GULF CONTRIES HAD PERMITTED PLO TO ESTABLISH OFFICES.

2) IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TESH TOLD ME THAT THE RULER, SHAIKH ISA, AT MARCH 2 CABINET MEETING HAD FLATLY VETOED A PLO OFFICE HERE IN SPITE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF IT.

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COMMENT:

SHEIKH ISA HAS A JUSTIFIED REPUTATION FOR BEING A COMPLAISANT LEADER. BUT ON OCCASION HE CAN BE TOUGH, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE IS BEING PRESSURED TO TAKE A STEP THAT WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE BAHRAIN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS, IN THIS CASE WITH JORDAN. THE RULER IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO KING HUSSEIN AND JORDANIAN OFFICERS ARE TRAINING BOTH BAHRAIN'S POLICE AND ARMED FORCES. ISA APPARENTLY HAS NO INTENTION, AT LEAST SO FAR, TO ENDANGER THESE ARRANGEMENTS BY GIVING IN TO PLO PRESSURE.
KILLGORE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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